LEPROSY—CHOONDAL VILLAGE

90. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they are aware of the spread of leprosy in Pudusseri Choondal Village, Talappalli Taluk;

(*b*) if answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, the steps taken to arrest the infection;

(*c*) if the answer is in the negative will they be pleased to depute the necessary technical staff to enquire and collect actual statistics of such patients in Choondal Eravallur Villages without further delay and inform the results by publication?

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese (*Chief Medical Officer*):

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A survey was conducted in Pudusseri and adjacent villages and a leprosy treatment centre was opened at Pudusseri. Treatment is given to lepers in this centre by a Sub-Assistant Surgeon from the Kunnamkulam Hospital.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Announcement of election of a Member to the Road Board

Mr. President: I have to announce that Mr. George Panikulam has been nominated as a member of the Road Board. As his is the only nomination paper received he has been duly elected.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT BILLS

The Cochin Employment of Children Bill

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General)*: Sir, I beg to move that the Cochin Employment of Children Bill be taken up and finally passed.

Motion put and carried

The Cochin Starting of Kuries Restriction Bill

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: I beg to move that the Cochin Starting of Kuries Restriction Bill be taken up and finally passed.

Amendments

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: I ask for permission to move my amendment.

Mr. President: Yes.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: I beg to move that in clause 3 of the Bill "Delete the portion beginning with the word "where" and ending with the word respectively" and insert between the word "Foreman" and "shall" the following.

"Of every kuri started on or after the 1st Chingam 1118".

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: On a point of order. My point is that this amendment is out of order.

Mr. President: Order, order. I have already indicated that I have given permission.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: The President has no power but only the Diwan.

Mr. President: Order, order. I am speaking in either capacity.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: In moving this amendment my purpose was indicated in my speech in support of the Bill when it was moved for consideration yesterday. I am of opinion that the Government has not gone sufficiently forward in prohibiting every kuri. Even the power to regulate the starting of Kuries ought to have been taken by the Government. That is my personal view. Government ought to have banned all kuries for a period of 10 years. Anyway since the Bill has been introduced at least to regulate, that regulation should not be restricted to bigger firms and not to individuals. Smaller Companies are more dangerous than big companies and in the matter of individuals and institutions starting Kuries there ought to be sufficient restriction in the interests of the people and in the interests of the villagers who have more chances of being enrolled as subscribers in smaller Kuries and in small and insecure banks and insecure institutions as small Devaswams, and not sufficiently affluent churches, such an amendment seems to be very highly necessary.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur)*: I beg to oppose the amendment.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General)*: I wish to make a statement before the amendment is discussed. In the course of the discussion of this Bill yesterday there were several opinions expressed on the floor of this House, and I made also a statement in my speech to the

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